



## TULAREMIA

<b>Agent Overview:</b>	The causative agent of Tularemia is the bacterium <i>Francisella tularensis</i> , a small, aerobic non-motile, gram-negative coccobacillus.
<b>Lab Specimen Submittal:</b>	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, DPHL director, Christina Pleasanton, DPHL deputy director, or Dr. Jack Liou, bioterrorism coordinator.
<b>Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:</b>	<p><u>Environmental testing for culture:</u> Use two dry Dacron swabs (not cotton) to collect specimen. Put in two separate sterile tubes.</p> <p><u>Clinical specimen for culture and/or PCR:</u> blood, biopsy or scraping of ulcer, aspirate of involved tissue. ONLY whole blood (in EDTA), purple top tube, may be submitted for PCR. If blood is submitted for PCR, a blood culture bottle must be drawn to confirm the result.</p> <p><u>Food specimen:</u> at least 10 grams in leak-proof container.</p> <p>Grown organism for culture and/or PCR from sentinel laboratory, referred organism on agar for rule-out testing or confirmation.</p>
<b>Packaging Instructions:</b>	<p>Environmental specimens must be double bagged and the outside of the bag decontaminated (10% bleach).</p> <p>Grown organisms, food or clinical specimens must be in unbreakable double containers stored at 2-8 °C and outside of container decontaminated (10% bleach).</p>
<b>Receiving Specimens at DPHL:</b>	Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the building by the loading dock. Submitter must present ID and have proper forms completed.
<b>Handling of Specimens:</b>	Chain of custody procedures must be followed for environmental samples or any samples, specimens and materials that could be used as evidence in a legal proceeding. Environmental samples are kept at room temperature and clinical specimens at refrigerator temperature (in a cooler, but not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory.
<b>Reporting Results:</b>	<p><u>Preliminary:</u> A preliminary positive or negative test result is issued upon completion of PCR. PCR may take 24 hrs. <u>However, all PCR results must be confirmed by culture.</u></p> <p><u>Negative:</u> Negative culture reports are issued after 5 days. (7 if patient has been treated with antibiotics)</p> <p><u>Positive:</u> Positive culture reports may be issued as early as 5 days after submission.</p>
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL director, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage).